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Message Text

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20
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 /084 W
---------- 103763
R 091005Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7206
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: OAU, XA
SUBJECT: COMMENT ON INAUGUGAL SESSION OF OAU LIBERATION
COMMITTEE MEETING

DEPT PASS TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS EXCEPT
DAR ES SALAAM

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 0079

1. SUMMARY: PREDOMINANT ATMOSPHERE AT OPENING DAY 24TH SESSION
OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE (REFTEL) WAS ONE OF SATISFACTION
OVER DOWNFALL OF PORTUGUESE AFRICAN EMPIRE AND HOPEFUL
EXPECTATION THAT 1975 WILL BRING IMPORTANT PROGRESS IN
RHODESIA (AND PERHAPS NAMIBIA), TOUCHED WITH PERHAPS A
HINT OF CONCERN THAT LIBERATION COMMITTEE MAY SOON FIND
ITSELF WITHOUT A CAUSE. (LATTER IDEA PERHAPS CONTAINED IN
SOMALI DELEGATE'S SUGGESTION THAT LIBERATION COMMITTEE
OPEN A NEW SECTION TO DEAL WITH TRAINING AND ORIENTATION
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OF CADRES AND MASSES IN "LIBERATED TERRITORIES.") BUT

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MAIN NOTE WAS OF ONE DOWN AND TOW TO GO, WITH RHODESIA
THE MAIN FOCUS OF CONCERN. END SUMMARY.

2. NYERERE'S OPENING ADDRESS WAS RESTRAINED BUT
DETERMINED. UNDOUBTEDLY MOST IMPORTANT POINT HE MADE, AND
REITERATED VERY CAREFULLY, WAS THAT AFRICA RELUCTANTLY
PREPARED TO ACCEPT GRADUAL PROGRESS TO MAJORITY RULE
IN RHODESIA SO LONG AS MAJORITY RULE ATTAINED BEFORE RHODESIAN
INDEPENDENCE IS RECOGNIZED AND SANCTIONS LIFTED. CLEARLY
HE WISHED DEMONSTRATE THAT HE IS NOT HINDERING PROGRESS
IN RHODESIAN NEGOTIATIONS BY PUSHING HARD-LINE INSISTENCE

ON "IMMEDIATE" MAJORITY RULE. AND, WHILE HE INSISTED
(PERHAPS FOR THE RECORD) THAT AFRICANS MUST BE PREPARED TO
RESUME ARMED STRUGGLE IN RHODESIA, THE THRUST OF HIS REMARKS
WAS THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT COULD AND
SHOULD TAKE PLACE, AND THAT AFRICANS SHOULD DO EVERYTHING
TO HELP THEM SUCCEED.

3. SKMORA MACHEL, THOUGH PRESUMABLY SPEAKING ON BEHALF ALL
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, DEVOTED HIMSELF ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY
(AND INTERMINABLY -- PARTLY AS RESULT MACHEL'S UNEXPECTEDLY
LONG SPEECH, NYERERE MISSED SCHEDULED TV INTERVIEW) WITH
INTERNAL, AND MOSTLY HISTORICAL, MOZAMBIUE MATTERS. TWO
POINTS,NEITHER OF THEM NEW, STRUCK US: THE FAR-LEFT (BY
AFRICAN STANDARDS) IDEOLOGICAL STANCE OF FRELIMO ON
DOMESTIC MATTERS, TYPIFIED PERHAPS BY HIS REFERENCE TO
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AS MOZAMBIQUE'S "NATURAL ALLIES",
AND HIS REITERATED INSISTENCE THAT FRELIMO IS NOT RACIST
OR ANTI-WHITE. ON FRELIMO'S FOREIGN POLICY HE REMAINED
AS VAGUE AS EVER, NOT COMMITTING HIMSELF TO MORE THAN
MORAL SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN NATIONALISTS IN RHODESIA OR
SOUTH AFRICA, AND INDEED INCLUDING BOTH THESE COUNTRIES
IN LIST OF THOSE WHERE ALL RACES COULD MINGLE. HIS ACCOUNT
OF 1967-69 INTERNAL STRUGGLE WITHIN FRELIMO CAME CLOSER
THAN ANY FRELIMO STATEMENT WE HAVE SEEN TO SUGGESTING
THAT MONDLANE'S ASSASSINATION MAY HAVE BEEN WORK OF FRELIMO
RIVALS RATHER THAN PORTUGUESE.

4. OTHER SPEAKERS MOSTLY REPEATED PLATITUDES OR GROUND
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PRIVATE AXES (E.G., SOMALI DELEGATE'S HARPING ON DJIBOUTI,
WHICH NOT EVEN MENTIONED BY ANYBODY ELSE).

5. LIBERATION COMMITTEE'S REAL DIFFICULTY MAY BE THAT, WITH
PORTUGUESE AFRICA FIRMLY ON ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE, AND NEGOTIATED
SETTLEMENTS AT LEAST IN PROSPECT FOR RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA,
COMMITTEE LIKELY HAVE LITTLE TO DO BUT "REMAIN VIGILENT", A
STANCE IT MAY WELL FIND CONFINING. IT SEEMS GENERALLY ACCEPTED

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THQZ SOUTH AFRICA IS SPECIAL PROBLEM, AND REMAINING COLONIAL
TERRITORIES AFTER RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA ARE PRETTY SMALL GAME.
THUS NYERERE'S INSISTENCE ON THE NECESSITY OF ENCOURAGING
NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE INTENDED TO WARN LIBERATION COMMITTEE NOT
TO UPSET SETTLEMENT APPLECARTS FOR SAKE OF DEMONSTRATING
ITS OWN MILITANCY.

6. NOTABLE AT SESSION WAS THE LACK OF ATTENTION DEVOTED
TO SOUTH AFRICA; IN ADDITION TO BEING GENERALLY RECOGNIZED
AS A SPECIAL CASE, IT MAY BE THAT MAIN SPEAKERS FELT IT
INAPPROPRIATE TO HIT AT VORSTER AT TIME WHEN HE
PRESUMABLY PUSHING SMITH TOWARDS SETTLEMENT AND HINTING
AT NEGOTIATED POSSIBILITIES FOR NAMIBIA. ALSO NOTABLE WAS
THE ALMOST TOTAL ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO THE US.
CARTER

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS.

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